

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The replacement sheets in the Appendix include changes to Figures 4 and 8. The sheet that includes Figure 4 also includes Figure 5 and the sheet that includes Figure 8 also includes Figures 7 and 9. In Figure 4, element number 82 has been changed to 182 and in Figure 8 the cross section "a" has been relocated.

REMARKS

The specification and drawings have been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the criticisms in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-18, 20-23, 28, 32-34, and 46-57 have been canceled, leaving claims 19, 24-27, 29-31, and 35-45 in the application.

The indication that claim 24 includes patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 24 has been amended into independent form. Claims 19, 25-27, 29-31, and 35-45 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 24. Consideration and allowance of amended claim 24 and dependant claims 19, 25-27, 29-31, and 35-45 are respectfully requested as these claims all include subject matter indicated to be allowable.

The Official Action objects to the form of claim 31. Claim 31 now depends from claim 25 and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 and 25-57 were rejected over various references. The claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter and reconsideration and withdrawal of the substantive rejections are respectfully requested.

The claims were also provisionally rejected based on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over

copending application 10/611,870 in view of LEHTONEN 5,403,257.

A Terminal Disclaimer is provided in the Appendix and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

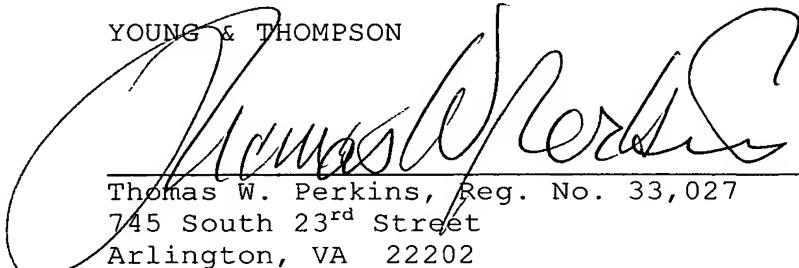
In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the terminal disclaimer fee of \$65 to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

TWP/lk

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- two replacement drawing sheets
- Terminal Disclaimer